

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A dust tolerant scanner, comprising:
 - a housing including optics which define an optical path between an object focal plane and a sensor focal plane;
 - a document feeder mechanically coupled to the housing, the document feeder including a reference surface positioned adjacent the object focal plane, the document feeder providing a media path through the object focal plane, the document feeder being configured to advance media along the media path; and
 - a media conformance member mechanically coupled to the housing and positioned adjacent the reference surface, the media conformance member including an aperture through which the optical path extends without obstruction such that dust or debris can fall through the aperture, the media conformance member being formed such that media advanced by the document feeder along the media path is biased toward the reference surface.
2. (Original) A dust tolerant scanner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the optics include a mirror positioned at an opposite side of the housing from the object focal plane.
3. (Original) A dust tolerant scanner as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mirror is a dust or debris collecting surface.
4. (Original) A dust tolerant scanner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the document feeder is an automatic document feeder.
5. (Original) A dust tolerant scanner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the media conformance member includes a ramp portion adjacent the aperture.
6. (Currently amended) A media scan assembly for a dust tolerant scanner, the media scan assembly comprising:
 - an upper document feeder portion and a lower document feeder portion providing a media path, the upper document feeder portion including a reference surface adjacent the media path, the lower document feeder portion including an aperture facing the reference surface, the aperture being formed such that dust or debris can fall through the aperture, the lower document feeder portion being configured to be attached to a main housing of the scanner; and
 - at least one drive roller configured to advance media along the media path.

7. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the upper document feeder portion includes a spring which mechanically couples the reference surface to the upper document feeder portion.

8. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the upper document feeder portion includes a raised portion adjacent the reference surface.

9. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein raised portion is positioned after the reference surface along the media path.

10. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reference surface is white.

11. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the lower document feeder portion includes a media conformance member which biases media advanced along the media path toward the reference surface.

12. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 11 wherein the media conformance member includes at least one ramp portion.

13. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one drive roller is mechanically coupled to the lower document feeder portion.

14. (Currently amended) A media scan assembly for a dust tolerant scanner, the media scan assembly comprising:

an upper document feeder portion and a lower document feeder portion defining a media path, the lower document feeder portion including a media conformance member shaped to push a piece of media against the upper document feeder portion, the media conformance member including an aperture shaped to provide an optical path to the media path and such that dust or debris can fall through the aperture; and

a media driver configured to reposition media along the media path.

15. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 14, wherein the upper

document feeder portion includes a reference surface which faces the aperture.

16. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein the reference surface is substantially uniform in color.

17. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein the media conformance member includes a top portion facing the reference surface and a ramp portion adjacent the top portion.

18. (Currently amended) A media scan assembly for a dust tolerant scanner, the media scan assembly comprising:

an upper document feeder portion and a lower document feeder portion defining a media path, the upper document feeder portion and the lower document feeder portion being configured to advance media along the media path, the upper document feeder portion including a reference surface, the lower document feeder portion including an aperture facing the reference surface, the media path being configured to push a piece of media in the media path against the reference surface, the aperture providing an optical path to the media path and being formed such that dust or debris can fall through the aperture.

19. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein the lower document feeder portion includes an angled surface which is positioned before the reference surface along the media path.

20. (Original) A media scan assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein the upper portion includes a raised surface which is positioned after the reference surface along the media path.